

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 209537

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS SUMMARY -SEPTEMBER 3

1. WSJ (PAGE 7) ITEM DATED NEW ORLEANS REPORTS THAT U.S. COURT THERE ISSUED TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER REQUIRING LONGSHOREMEN TO LOAD RUSSIAN GRAIN SHIP AT RESERVE, LOUISIANA. COURT HELD THAT ISSUE INVOLVED WAS CONTRACT DISPUTE BETWEEN NEW ORLEANS STEAMSHIP ASSOCIATION AND UNIONS. (COURT) SAID THAT CONSTITUTED A DISPUTE WITH NATIONAL POLICY AND THAT POLITICAL DISPUTE "IS NO BUSINESS OF THIS COURT."

2. WP (PAGE 1) PETER OSNOS COLUMN "MOSCOW VEERS ON PORTUGAL" SAYS THAT SOVIET UNION IS SHIFTING PUBLIC STANCE ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL FROM SUPPORT IT HAD BEEN GIVING TO BROAD ALLIANCE OF LEFT-WING FORCES TOWARD EXPLICIT BACKING OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY. MOVE HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR SOVIET STRATEGY IN EUROPE, HE REPORTS, WHERE MOSCOW'S PROSELYTIZING ON BEHALF LOCAL COMMUNISTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN CAUTIOUS. IT ALSO POSES PROBLEM FOR U.S.-USSR RELATIONS AS THE SUPERPOWERS TRADE WARNINGS ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL

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AFFAIRS AND DANGERS TO DETENTE.

3. STAR (PAGE D-14) CHRISTOPHER WREN STORY SAYS SOVIET UNION IS RUNNING A MOUNTING DEFICIT IN ITS TRADE WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES SO FAR THIS YEAR ACCORDING TO INFO MADE AVAILABLE BY WESTERN COMMERCIAL SOURCES. TRADE DEFICIT WITH WEST NOT UNCOMMON BUT THIS YEARS FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE ESTIMATED \$2 BILLION IN SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES IN WEST WHICH LIKELY TO FURTHER INCREASE DEFICIT. ROBINSON

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